

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6487

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5374

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, UR, US, PINT

SUBJ: SUNDAY SEMINAR FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SESSIONS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 5172 (NOTAL), (B) LENINGRAD 437 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE TALKED WITH THREE OF THE AMERICANS ATTENDING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE SESSIONS OF THE SUNDAY SEMINAR. OUR SOURCES EXPLAINED THAT THE SEMINAR HAD GOTTEN UNDERWAY SUNDAY NIGHT, AS SCHEDULED, IN AZBEL'S APARTMENT. THERE HAD BEEN NO SERIOUS HARASSMENT OF THE SEMINAR, ALTHOUGH MANY KGB PLAINCLOTHESMEN AND UNIFORMED MILITIAMEN WERE IN THE VICINITY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE NUMBER OF SECURITY PERSONNEL ON DUTY HAS BEEN STEADILY REDUCED SINCE SUNDAY.

2. THE OPENING SESSION WAS ATTENDED, AMONG OTHERS, BY ACADEMICIANS ANDREI SAKHAROV AND BENJAMIN LEVICH. (THERE HAVE BEEN ABOUT 40-50 PEOPLE ON HAND AT EACH SESSION THUS FAR.) THE ONLY FOREIGNERS AT THE SESSIONS HAVE BEEN FROM THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. REPORTEDLY ALL OF THOSE AMERICANS WHO GOT INTO THE USSR INTENDING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SEMINAR, EXCEPT WALL AND GOLDBERGER (REF B), ARE ATTENDING. NONE OF THE AMERICANS HAS HAD ANY TROUBLE SO FAR.

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3. OUR SOURCES SAID THAT IN ALL ABOUT 25 PAPERS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE READ. SOME OF THE AMERICANS HAVE GIVEN PAPERS. THEY SAY THAT THE QUALITY OF THE PRESENTATIONS IS MIXED; SOME OF THE PAPERS ARE OF WORLD CLASS, OTHERS ARE MUCH LOWER IN QUALITY. FROM A SCIENTIFIC POINT OF VIEW, THE AVERAGE QUALITY IS HIGHER THAN THE AMERICANS

HAD EXPECTED. IN THEIR VIEW, ONLY THE ABSENCE OF DISCUSSION
TIME REDUCES THE SCIENTIFIC VALUE OF THE SEMINAR.

4. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, AZBEL WAS CALLED BY HIS KGB
CASE OFFICER ON SATURDAY MORNING AND TOLD THAT THE SEMINAR
WOULD BE ALLOWED TO TAKE PLACE. HE WAS ASKED TO STAY HOME
ALL DAY SATURDAY, AGREED TO DO SO, AND HAS HAD NO PROBLEMS.

5. THE SEMINAR IS SCHEDULED TO END THE EVENING OF
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20.
TOON

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH MR OTTO S/S-O.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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